



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Norman H. Bangerter

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801-538-5340

November 25, 1991

## CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT P 074 978 827

Mr. Mark F. Lindsey  
Native Asphalt Company  
136 East South Temple  
University Club Building, Suite 1750  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Dear Mr. Lindsey,

Re: Native Asphalt Company, (NAC) Cameron #1, S/047/036, Uintah County, Utah

The Division has reviewed your September 12, 1991, proposal for the Cameron #1 site and the additional Small Mining Operation Notice of Intent (NOI). A joint site inspection performed by the Division and State Lands and Forestry personnel on October 3, 1991 revealed that additional information is needed before the NOI can be processed further. As for your proposal for partial reclamation of the Cameron site, the Division has the following comments:

Division policy requires the passage of at least one growing season before partial reclamation release can be considered. By regulations, the usual waiting period for full release is three years. Therefore, the Division cannot consider partial release of the reclaimed areas at the Cameron site until at least one growing season has elapsed since the initial reclamation. It is possible that full release will take longer.

At this time, the Division does not have sufficient information regarding the actual reclamation performed on the scalped area of the Cameron site. This work was performed without the Division's prior consent or knowledge. Additional required information consists of the following: the date of the regrading; the manner of regrading; the date of the seeding; the manner of seeding (broadcast or drilled); the seed application rate; the seed mix used; fertilizer and/or mulch used; and any other specifics regarding the actual reclamation work performed. This information is required to evaluate the type and quality of work performed and to determine if it meets Division standards.



Page 2

Mr. Mark F. Lindsey

S/047/036

November 25, 1991

The reclamation information requested in this letter will help us determine if additional reclamation is warranted on this area. Additional reclamation requirements may include trenching or furrowing along the contour, mulching, and reseeding of the regraded area.

The October 3, 1991 site inspection revealed that additional reclamation work is needed before portions of the site could be considered partially reclaimed. Details of this additional work are listed in the file memo dated October 8, 1991 (copy attached). Specifically, more regrading north of the stockpile area; regrading of the road cut to the northeast of the stockpile; removal of gravel piles and regrading of the pad area east of the stockpile; and revegetation of regraded areas (mulching, disking, fertilizing and seeding).

An additional inspection of the Cameron site was performed on October 25, 1991 by the Division's vegetation specialist to evaluate the revegetation success of the seeded area. The pit and diversion ditch area were also inspected at that time. The ditch diverts the majority of the water around the pit, but the water is still in contact with the asphalt material. This contact consequently degrades the water quality, thereby reducing the effectiveness of the diversion ditch. An obvious negative impact on the quality of water in this small stream remains and is of concern to the Division.

In addition, the Division has not yet received information regarding the actual disturbed area at the Cameron #1 site. This information was requested in our September 5, 1990 letter. Pending the outcome of any immediate reclamation efforts, the disturbed area at this site cannot be reduced below the estimated 7.5 acre amount as referred to in the September 5th letter.

If NAC chooses to dispute the Division's estimate of the disturbed acreage, it may be necessary for NAC to have the site surveyed by a registered professional land surveyor, to verify that the site is five (5) or less acres. A survey would need to clearly identify those areas surveyed and the associated disturbed acreage.

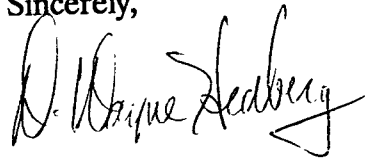
Unless supplemental information is received supporting NAC's position, the Division will require NAC to file a Large Mining Notice of Intent and post a reclamation surety for the entire mine site area(s). In conclusion, the Division will not consider releasing portions of the site from the reclamation requirements for a minimum of one year (based upon timing of DOGM acceptance of reclamation performed). This in turn means that Native Asphalt will be required to post a reclamation surety covering the existing disturbance at the Cameron #1 site, plus any new/proposed mining-related disturbances.

Page 3  
Mr. Mark F. Lindsey  
S/047/036  
November 25, 1991

The Division requests that NAC contact this office within 30 days of receipt of this letter to schedule a meeting to discuss the outstanding issues and concerns as outlined in this letter. Failure to do so may result in the issuance of a Notice of Non-Compliance.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact me or Tony Gallegos of the Minerals staff. Thank you for your cooperation and attention in resolving these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Wayne Hedberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "H" and "B".

D. Wayne Hedberg  
Permit Supervisor  
Minerals Regulatory Program

AG/jb  
Attachment  
cc: John Blake, State Lands  
Lowell Braxton, DOGM  
Minerals Staff  
S047036.1



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MINERAL RECORDS  
FILE COPY

October 8, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *da g*

RE: Site Inspection, Native Asphalt Company, Cameron #1 Project,  
S/047/036, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 3, 1991

Time of Inspection: 1000 - 1220

Conditions: Fair, warm

Participants: Mark Lindsey, Native Asphalt; John Blake, State Lands & Forestry;  
Tony Gallegos, DOGM

The purpose of this inspection was to examine the location of a proposed future mine site located on State Lands north of the existing mine site. Native Asphalt had submitted the proposal to both the Division and State Lands.

We met in Vernal and drove to the proposed mine site located in section 36, approximately one mile northwest of the Cameron #1 site. Mr. Lindsey indicated that their preferred access route would be from the existing road which entered the site from the north rather than the existing road from the south, which had been indicated in the proposal. This northern route is less steep, requires less road building and maintenance than the route from the south. For the most part, this road is located on private property.

The pros and cons of three general locations for the proposed pit location were discussed and one location was selected as the most favorable. This area consists of fairly level terrain, little topsoil and vegetation, and is situated out of the major drainage channels. An outcrop of asphalt, with a lone tree growing out of it, sits south-southeast of the proposed pit location. This location has very little if any, overburden or topsoil overlying the asphalt deposit.



I indicated that since the pit would be located on State Lands, Mr. Blake would have more input regarding the requirements of final reclamation of the pit. Mr. Blake indicated that any highwalls would need to be eliminated. The pit would need to be backfilled and the material compacted to prevent erosion; then the backfilled pit would need to be regraded to blend in with the surrounding contours. A minimum of two feet of topsoil material would need to be placed over the recontoured area which would then be seeded and mulched.

Several questions were raised which Native Asphalt needs to address. What will be the actual dimensions of the pit? How much material will be needed to backfill the pit? How much topsoil material will be needed to reclaim the pit? Where will this topsoil material come from?

Mr. Lindsey indicated that this project would be a pilot project at first and if results are favorable it would undergo further development. As for the timing of this project, Native Asphalt is waiting for certain technologies before they will proceed with the actual development of the proposed mine. Mr. Blake indicated that he had submitted the proposal to the RDCC which required 60 days for processing/review. The amount of time elapsed thus far would allow work to begin on the mine in mid-November, barring any negative comments.

From the Division's point of view, this project would be considered part of the Cameron #1 mine site, due to its proximity. Native Asphalt has proposed partial reclamation of the Cameron #1 site in order to keep the total acreage for both pit locations under five acres. If the site is under five acres the Division does not require a bond. State Lands, however, does require a minimum bond of \$5,000 plus any site specific reclamation costs which exceed the \$5,000.

The meeting concluded with the understanding that Native Asphalt would provide additional information regarding the proposed mine development. The Division and State Lands would suspend their review of the proposal until the additional information was received.

Mr. Lindsey and I then proceeded to visit the Cameron #1 site to examine the reclamation status. This site is located on private property. A portion of the hillside north of the stockpile area had been previously scalped during operations. Mr. Lindsey indicated that this area had been regraded. An attempt at ripping the slope had been made, but the asphalt material combined with the hard gravel made this very difficult. Mr. Lindsey indicated that the area had been broadcast seeded sometime in

Page 3  
Site Inspection  
Cameron #1 Project  
October 8, 1991

May 1991. Examination of the area showed most of the plants to be invader species such as russian thistle and halogeton. Photos were taken to document the status of this area.

Some additional reclamation of the area is still needed. Several small piles of material need to be regraded. The road and berm sloping up the side of the scalped area need to be regraded. Mr. Lindsey indicated that they would like to clean up the breached dike area near the wetlands. At the time of this inspection the breached area had recently sloughed in around the drainage of the wetlands. It was suggested that the bank of the breached area could be pulled back and made into a gentler slope without affecting the wetlands. Some piles of gravel located over the rise to the east of the stockpiles will also need to be regraded or removed.

We examined the remainder of this site and found no causes of concern. Photos were taken of the pit area and the adjacent wetlands area. The plants were considerably tall given that this was a wet year.

I indicated that I would need to discuss the idea of reducing the disturbed area through partial reclamation with the other Division staff. The photographs of the seeded area would also need to be reviewed before the Division could consider this proposal. The Division will notify Mr. Lindsey via mail of the decision regarding the partial reclamation issue.

jb

cc: John Blake, State Lands  
Mark Lindsey, Native Asphalt  
Kathy Trott, Army Corps of Engineers  
Holland Shepherd, DOGM

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